



# Arizona Department of Transportation

## Public Transportation Division

### MEMORANDUM

**To:** MPO and COG Directors

**Date:** 24 July, 2006

**From:** Jim Dickey, Director, PTD

**Subject:** State Public Transportation Update

Hello MPO and COG Directors:

Here is a July update from the ADOT's Public Transportation Division. And I want to welcome Jodi Rooney, CYMPO Administrator, to our Public Transportation Division update!

**State Management Review:** ADOT will meet with FTA staff and their Review Consultant beginning next week (August 1-4) to review the program and practices of PTD; this is a similar process to the Triennial Review that FTA 5307 recipients experience. The review includes a desk review submittal, which we completed three weeks ago. Included in the on-site effort will be review of 19 areas of DOT performance in grant administration of the 5310 and 5311 programs, interviews with a variety of ADOT staff in several Divisions, and site-visits to a representative 5310 and 5311 recipient. In the meantime, PTD is now updating its State Management Plan, reviewing the application processes just overhauled for technical corrections, and completing several internal processes including procurement reviews, file audits, contracts management, record keeping, and other administrative efforts, which may involve you or recipients in your area. Your help is always appreciated. Contact Jim Dickey at 602 712 8137 or Liz Votino at 602 712 8080.

**PTD Has Moved—Sort Of:** Next time you stop by our offices, you'll find that most of us have relocated somewhat, but not much. The third floor is going through some staged renovations, and you'll find that we've relocated several staff members, but still on third floor. By the end of this calendar year, all of the floor, including TPD, will have been upgraded. We're still here!

**State Railroad Assessment and Inventory:** Both the Public Transportation Division (PTD) and Transportation Planning Division (TPD) of ADOT have partnered with MAG to retain the services of RL Banks & Associates in the development a State of Arizona Railroad Inventory and Assessment. This 10 month task will compile and document a baseline assessment of all of the state's current railroad infrastructure, including it's condition, it's usage, and any short-range plans to improve it, as well of photo-documentation of each rail line. In addition, a GIS database will be established to better document the geographic mapping of all railroad corridors within the state of Arizona. This is being done cooperation with each private railroad and several state and regional partners. Currently, the consultant has completed Task 1-3, by gathering GIS data from each railroad, including maps, charts, timetables and grade crossing data. Further, eight short-line railroads will be inspected between now and September in order to establish a database for Task 6's "Infrastructure Investments and Needs" and Task 8 and 9's "Preservation Opportunities and Strategies". Contact Marc Pearsall at 602 712 8871 or Scott Friedson at 602 712 6095.

**State Rural Transit Needs Study:** In a matching-funds partnership with AzTA, ADOT has completed solicitation of its on-call consultants. The RFP was issued on June 15, 2006; ADOT held a pre-proposal conference on Tuesday, June 27; the proposal deadline was July 10. Only two proposers answered the request, but both are well qualified. An award will be made, probably this week, with notice to proceed. This

nearly yearlong study will focus on identifying needs, service gaps, and quantifying costs of providing a more comprehensive rural transit network. Included in the effort will be some JARC/New Freedom/Tribal/AzRides planning issues, and the stakeholder/public input ADOT's Communication and Community Partnerships Division will host process. Contact Jim Dickey for more information at 602 712 8137.

**Arizona Rides:** There are several developments in the Arizona Rides program worthy of your note:

- AzRides Strategic Planning: As you recall, the Executive Council suggested a working group address a strategic plan outline for the Council. We will meet in August to develop that outline, and present it at the September Executive Council meeting.
- ADOT applied for a Governor's Office of Highway Safety grant, in order to facilitate a coordinated rural training effort. No news yet, but we anticipate the best!

Contact Gregg Kiely at 602 712 6736 or Steve Rost at 602 712 8018 for more information.

**Arizona Framework for Coordinated Transportation:** As I mentioned last month and above, the State Rural Transit Needs Study, Arizona Rides, and JARC/New Freedoms/Tribal funding distributions are all becoming more and more inter-related. As a result, ADOT-PTD has strategized how to coordinate the efforts and the funding behind each one to best meet planning requirements, fund distributions, and program implementation of Federal Funds. First, as we discussed, ADOT is now providing a draft letter for the Governor's office to re-affirm the current list of Designated Recipients of Federal funds as the responsible DR's for JARC and New Freedoms funds. Very briefly, here is our plan of attack to get to a locally developed and competitively derived plan, as required by SAFETEA-LU:

- Fund the effort: Arizona Rides Grant and ADOT FTA planning funds, and some resource data from the State Rural Transit Needs Study (funded separately).
- Develop policy statements and goals: Develop a list of policy statements to frame the effort with specific goals and objectives
- Identify planning locations: 9 sub-regions throughout the state, to be determined, but based primarily on regional government boundaries
- Prepare planning tool: We'll use the United We Ride Framework for Action, in four areas: Process, Assessment, Prioritization, Action
- Organize and facilitate the effort: ADOT Staff (Steve Rost), local MPO/COG Transportation staff, with ADOT consultant support to organize planning effort and produce plan documents
- Timeframe: Begin immediately--all completed December 31, 2006

This will require your input and participation, organization, location logistics, and notification and recruitment of key stakeholders to get the kind of locally based and competitively derived plan outcome. For more information, contact Steve Rost at 602 712 8018.

**PTD FY07 Legislative Agenda Ideas:** It's never too early to begin to think about issues that you may wish for ADOT to frame for consideration for the upcoming FY07 Legislative session. Based upon some discussions with many of you, PTD has recommended two issues for Departmental review. They are:

- State Infrastructure Bank (Help Loan program) modifications to fund and facilitate transit program loans
- Reversion of the \$650K RR R/W purchase fund to RR planning (the R/W was specifically identified in the original statute, no longer available) and creation of a RR ROW Purchase Bank

In addition, our friends at ADOA have continually asked for supplemental budget support on a bus pass subsidy program in non-attainment areas that is of interest to the Metro area and a worthy request. Contact Jim Dickey at 602 712 8137

**LTAfil:** This year's LTAfil program, funded by FY06 PowerBall revenues, has had a very good year ending June 30, 2006....in fact, the best in recent memory. The statewide distribution will meet the \$18M maximum allocation this year. We will work diligently to distribute the funds, based upon the following process:

- August 18 , 2006 -- Applications distributed electronically to COGs/MPOs for dissemination to Cities and Towns
- September 15, 2006 -- Applications from Cities and Towns must be received by COGs/MPOs
- September 29, 2006 -- City and Town applications from COGs/MPOs due to ADOT
- October 2006 -- Distribution of funding from the State Treasury will be authorized

Please be sure to release this information to the cities and towns as soon as possible. Contact Matt Carpenter at 602 712 6790.

**5310 and 5311 Program Awards:** For both programs, applications have been reviewed and awards are now pending. To find a list of awards for the 5311 program, check out "Statewide Transit News" on the PTD webpage at [www.azdot.gov/ptd](http://www.azdot.gov/ptd). The 5310 program awards will be announced very soon. Contact Gregg Kiely at 602 712 6736 or Sam Chavez at 602 712 7465.

**Statewide Ride Share Data Base:** ADOT, Valley Metro, Pinal and Coconino Counties, and PAG are now working to develop a model for a statewide rideshare database. We are completing an IGA to define the effort, which will expand the current database in Maricopa and Pima counties to a statewide resource, thus allowing anyone who registers to do ride matching with those of similar trip making needs. Look for the program to implemented sometime later this calendar year! Contact Marc Pearsall at 602 712 8871.

**Other Planning Efforts Upcoming:** PTD is working on several other planning projects other than those highlighted above. Here's a short list:

- Maricopa 5311 feasibility and implementation plan is at consultant selection
- Nogales (and surrounding area) 5311 feasibility and implementation plan has begun
- Queen Creek 5311 feasibility and implementation plan scoping underway
- Partnering with TPD on SATS in Page, Pinal, Casa Grande, Benson, Somerton, Douglas, Greenlee County, Queen Creek, and Florence/Coolidge
- Development of Performance Objectives for 5311 and RTCS projects

Contact Matt Carpenter at 602 712 6790

**Conferences/Training/Meeting Update:**

- Arizona League of Cities and Towns Annual Conference (Tucson) 8/22-25 (PTD is presenting on Thursday morning: BE THERE!)
- 5311 Rural Transit Conference (Phoenix) 8/30, hosted by ADOT
- Arizona Rides Executive Council (Phoenix) 9/7

The ADOT-PTD mission is to identify public transportation needs, and administer programs and resources to provide safe and reliable options for Arizona's communities. With your participation and help, we can do that. Don't hesitate to contact any of the PTD staff for information or direction in regard to your public transportation program needs. Don't forget to check out our website at [www.azdot.gov/ptd](http://www.azdot.gov/ptd).

Thanks.....Jim Dickey

